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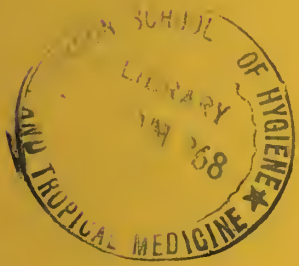
1 *W. H. H. B.*
2 *Leung*

BIGGLESWADE URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1957



OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR



B

A N N U A L R E P O R T F O R 1 9 5 7

To the Members of the Biggleswade Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions relating to the Biggleswade Urban District for the year 1957.

The statistical tables show that again the adjusted death rate of 9.1 was lower than the rate of 11.5 for England and Wales. Of a total of 139 deaths occurring in the area, 67 were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system and 23 due to cancer.

The infant mortality rate of 18.0 is still below the rate of 23.0 for the country as a whole and has been consistently so since 1953.

It will be seen from the incidence of infectious disease that measles was prevalent during the year, 115 cases being notified. As for the previous year, there were no notifications of cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria.

Mention is made in this report of the continuance of the scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis. The results of this disease can, in severe cases, so incapacitate an individual that, in spite of modern treatment, physical ability may be severely limited. Vaccination offers a protection against the serious effects of the disease.

My thanks are due to the Officers of the Council and their staffs for their continued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.A. Harvey

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) .....	.....	.....	.....	4,647
Registrar-General's estimate of Home Population .....	.....	.....	.....	7,770
Number of inhabited houses end of 1957 .....	.....	.....	.....	2,500
Rateable Value .....	.....	.....	.....	£85,116
Sum represented by a penny rate....	.....	.....	.....	£345. 4. 1½d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	50	55	105
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	6
				—	—	—
				52	59	111
				—	—	—
Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population .....	.....	.....	.....			14.3
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population.....	.....	.....	.....			14.2
Birth rate for England and Wales .....	.....	.....	.....			16.1

Still Births

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	3
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				1	2	3
				—	—	—
Still Birth rate per 1,000 Total Births. ....	.....	.....	.....			26.3
Still Birth rate for England and Wales.. ....	.....	.....	.....			22.4

Deaths

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes .....	.....	.....	.....	78	61	139
Crude death rate per 1,000 Home population .....	.....	.....	.....			17.9
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home population.....	.....	.....	.....			9.1
Death rate for England and Wales .....	.....	.....	.....			11.5
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth :						
From Sepsis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
From other causes...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate				—	2	2
Illegitimate				—	—	—
				—	—	—
				—	2	2
				—	—	—
Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births						18.0
Rate for England and Wales....						23.0

Deaths from

Measles .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Whooping Cough .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Influenza .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Cancer (all forms)..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Cancer (Lung and Bronchus)....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7

STATISTICAL TABLE 1948 - 1957.

Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales
1948	10.5	10.8	16.7	17.9	40.6	34
1949	10.5	11.7	16.8	16.7	16.1	32
1950	9.4	11.6	18.3	15.8	15.3	29.8
1951	11.4	12.5	16.4	15.5	16.8	29.6
1952	11.9	11.3	15.4	15.3	35.1	27.6
1953	13.7	11.4	11.7	15.5	11.5	26.8
1954	12.6	11.3	14.6	15.2	17.7	25.5
1955	15.0	11.7	14.8	15.0	0.5	24.9
1956	10.4	11.7	16.4	15.7	15.6	23.8
1957	9.1	11.5	14.2	16.1	18.0	23.0

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1957.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics :-

<u>Cause of Death</u>			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	.....	1	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	.....	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.....	.....	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough.	.....	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.	.....	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	-	-
8.	Measles	.....	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	.....	2	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus..	.....	6	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	7	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia....	.....	-	-
16.	Diabetes	.....	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	.....	11	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	.....	11	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease....	.....	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	.....	16	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	.....	2	2
22.	Influenza	.....	2	3
23.	Pneumonia	.....	2	3
24.	Bronchitis.....	.....	5	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	2	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	.....	2	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis..	.....	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	.....	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion....	.....	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.	.....	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	2	12
33.	Motor Vehicles accidents.	.....	-	-
34.	All other accidents	.....	2	3
35.	Suicide	.....	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	.....	-	-
<u>Total all causes.....</u>			<u>78</u>	<u>61</u>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health -

C.A. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor -

T. Wilson, M.Inst.M.E., M.R.S.I.

Laboratory Facilities :

The services of the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, is available for the examination of any material submitted by the Health Department or by General Practitioners. This service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council through the Ministry of Health, and there is no charge to the Council. The Laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs, sputum, urine and faeces, and blood from all cases of suspected infectious disease, and advice and assistance is always available.

Services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946 :

1. Ambulance :

The Bedfordshire County Council provides a complete service covering the whole of the County. The service is a twenty-four hour one and is free of charge, and is available for the removal of all cases requiring admission to hospital and also for the transport of patients who are unable to use other means of transport to and from hospitals or clinics, so that they can receive any necessary treatment. The request for the provision of an ambulance must be made by a General Practitioner or by an Authorised Person.

The service is also available for the transport of persons suffering from infectious disease to isolation hospital.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County :-

Biggleswade : Crab Lane.

Tel: Biggleswade 2295.

Bedford : Bedford Road, Kempston. Tel: Bedford 5335 and 5336.

2. Midwifery and Domiciliary Nursing Services :

The County Council are the responsible Authority for these services. One midwife is available for Maternity cases, and one Nurse for Minor Medical and Surgical Cases.

Name and Address of Midwife :-

Miss M.P. Stafford,

17 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

(Tel.No. Biggleswade 3266).

Name and Address of District Nurse :-

Miss E. Dillistone,

2 High Street, Biggleswade.

(Tel.No. Biggleswade 3177).

3. Health Visiting :

Name and Address of Health Visitor :-
Miss D. Hipkiss,
The Lawns Health Centre, Biggleswade.
(Tel.No. Biggleswade 2158).

4. Clinic :

Maternity and Child Welfare -
Child Welfare - "The Lawns", Biggleswade, Tuesday afternoons.
Ante and Post Natal - "The Lawns", Biggleswade, alternate
Tuesday mornings.

Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board :

1. Venereal Disease Clinic :

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing. The days and times of
attendance are :-

Males and Females - Wednesday, 5 - 7 p.m.
Friday, 3 - 5 p.m.

2. Tuberculosis Clinic :

The Chest Clinic, Bedford General Hospital, North Wing,
Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The days and times of attendance are :
Monday 2-2.30 p.m. and 6-6.30 p.m. Refills (A.P. and P.P.)
Tuesday 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (Women and children-
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (new and old patients
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Contacts
2-3.30 p.m. Doctors Mini Film Clinic
3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. To examine films sent by
Factory Doctors
Thursday 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Males-old and new patients

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply :

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and
has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have
been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown
that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial
purity.

The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories
of a sample sent for examination on 16th January, 1957, is typical :

Chemical Examination in parts per Million

Appearance - Clear and bright.			
Colour	.....	.....	Nil
Odour	.....	.....	Nil
Turbidity	.....	.....	Nil
Reaction pH.....	.....	.....	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	.....	.....	24
Electric Conductivity.....	.....	.....	540
Total Solids dried at 180 deg. C....	.....	.....	375
Chlorine present as Chloried	.....	.....	20
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.....	.....	.....	240
Hardness : Total	.....	.....	290
Carbonate	.....	.....	240
Non-Carbonate..	.....	.....	50

Chemical Examination in parts per Million (contd..) :

Nitrate Nitrogen	.....	.....	0.00
Nitrite Nitrogen	.....	.....	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen *	.....	.....	0.012
Albuminoid Nitrogen *	.....	.....	0.000
Metals	.....	.....	0.08
Free Chlorine Reaction....	.....	.....	-
Oxygen absorbed.	.....	.....	0.20
Residual Chlorine	.....	.....	Absent

* To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar -

1 day at 37 degs. C.	.....	0	per ml.
2 days at 37 degs. C.	.....	0	per ml.
3 days at 20 degs. C.	.....	0	per ml.
	Present	Absent	Probable
	in	from	Number
Presumptive Coliform reaction	-ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	-ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	-ml.	100 ml.	

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These are satisfactory results, indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Drainage and Sewage :

With the exception of a few cottages on the Langford Road and some outlying cottages, the whole of the area has a water carriage system. The sewage disposal plant has been working to capacity. The length of new sewers laid during the year is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. The cesspools of the outlying un-sewered properties are emptied by arrangement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) General Statistics :

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1957.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total registered deaths
Whooping Cough	10	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Measles	115	1	-
Jaundice	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia...	4	4	-
Total	133	5	-

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

	Under 1 Year. M. F.	1 to 3 F.	3 to 5 F.	5 to 10 F.	10 to 15 F.	15 to 25 F.	25 to 35 F.	35 to 45 F.	45 to 65 F.	65 and upwards M. F.	Total all ages.
Whooping Cough	- 1	3 1	2 -	1 1	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- -	10
Pneumonia	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- 2	- -	3
Measles	- 1	9 9	18 17	30 30	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	115
Jaundice	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	- 2	- -	- -	- -	4

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 85

Scabies :

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons and contacts are treated at the Treatment Centre, Bedford.

Prevention of Blindness :

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

School Closure :

It was not found necessary to close any schools in the area on account of infectious disease.

Er adication of Bed Bugs :

It was not found necessary to disinfect any houses during the year.

Thermatox disinfectors and Bombay liquid spray is available for use when required.

1. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The table given below shows the number of children under 15 years of age who have received protective treatment against Diphtheria. The County Council, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides this treatment free of charge through the family doctor or at school or a child Welfare Centre. The figures have been supplied by the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer. It is still necessary to urge all parents to give their children the protection which can be had free of cost from their own doctor or at a Welfare Clinic or at School.

The number of cases of and deaths from Diphtheria have shown a remarkable decline since the introduction of immunisation and no case has been notified in the district for several years. In order to ensure that outbreaks of this disease will not occur in the future, it is necessary that at least 75 per cent of all children under the age of 15 years should be protected effectively against the disease, i.e. they should have had either a primary immunisation or a "booster" injection within the last five years.

Protection against Whooping Cough :

Since 1st November, 1955 the County Council have made facilities available for the protection against Whooping Cough of young children who have not had the disease and whose parents are desirous of having such protection given to their children. The Whooping Cough vaccine can be given alone or in combination with Diphtheria prophylactic.

Primary Immunisations completed during 1957.

Number of children during the year 1957 who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including Temporary Residents).								
Age at 31.12.57. i.e. Born in yr.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952-1948	1947-1943	under 15
No. Immunised	31	30	13	1	1	5	-	81

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The County Council Scheme for the registration and vaccination against Poliomyelitis of the age groups of children as laid down by the Ministry of Health was continued through the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer who has stated that the number of children registered was about 30 per cent of all children eligible which is similar to the figures for the County as a whole.

At the end of 1957 in the whole of Eastern Division, 1044 children had received two injections and 210 had received one injection.

II. Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

Age at date of notification	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of immunisation	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of immunisation
Under 1	-	-	Under 1	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-
2	-	-	2	-	-
3	-	-	3	-	-
4	-	-	4	-	-
5 to 9	-	-	5 to 9	-	-
10 to 14	-	-	10 to 14	-	-
Totals	-	-	Totals	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these regulations, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Year Ended 31st December, 1957.

Building Plans :

The following building plans were approved by the Council and work inspected and drains tested during course of construction :-

Dwellings	.....	.....	.....	39
Alterations, additions, conversions....				17
Garages	.....	.....	.....	5
Caravans	.....	.....	.....	2
Accesses	.....	.....	.....	1
Workshops	.....	.....	.....	-
Factories	.....	.....	.....	1
Petrol Tanks	.....	.....	.....	2
Sports Pavilion....	.....	.....	.....	1
Change of Use	.....	.....	.....	3
Advertisement Signs	.....	.....	.....	3
Greenhouses, agricultural buildings, store sheds etc..	.....	.....	.....	<u>9</u> <u>83</u>

The construction of a new Public Convenience was also completed by the Council.

General Sanitary Inspections :

The following inspections were made and nuisances abated or defects remedied by informal action :-

Housing defects....	.....	.....	2356
Unfit houses	.....	.....	39
Defective drains...	.....	.....	9
Factories	.....	.....	4
Food Premises	.....	.....	5
Water Wastage	.....	.....	<u>736</u> <u>3149</u>

Fifty four inspections were made in connection with Rodent Control, treatment being necessary in 10 cases, and one test bating of sewers was carried out.

Meat and Other Foods :

Regular meat inspection duties have been carried out by the Council's staff at the three licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The following animals were slaughtered and inspected :-

Steers and Heifers.	.....	.....	488
Pigs	.....	.....	458
Sheep and Lambs....	.....	.....	670

The following foodstuffs were rejected as unfit for human consumption :-

<u>Totally rejected...</u>	.....	.....	1 sheep
<u>Parts rejected :-</u>			
Offal	.....	.....	80 lbs.
Livers	.....	.....	355 lbs.
Hearts	.....	.....	1
Kidneys	.....	.....	4
Heads & Tongues....	.....	.....	14
Fish	.....	.....	91 lbs.
Tinned Meat	.....	.....	24 lbs.
Carcase beef	.....	.....	44 lbs.
Golden Cutlets....	.....	.....	28 lbs.
Sundry packaged foods	.....	.....	55 containers.

Factories and Workshops :

The following factories and workshops are registered :-

Brewers	.....	.....	.....	1
Millers	.....	.....	.....	3
Motor and Cycle Engineers..	.....	.....	.....	10
General Engineers	.....	.....	.....	5
Joiners	.....	.....	.....	4
Plumbers	.....	.....	.....	4
Printers	.....	.....	.....	2
Tailors	.....	.....	.....	1
Boot Repairers...	.....	.....	.....	3
Laundry	.....	.....	.....	1
Caravans	.....	.....	.....	1
Lingerie & Clothing Manufacturers....	.....	.....	.....	2
Bookbinding	.....	.....	.....	1
Miscellaneous....	.....	.....	.....	15

House Scavenging :

One 18 Cubic yard Dennis "Paxit" refuse collection vehicle is used for carrying out this work. This normally deals with all collections, but this is supplemented from time to time as may be required by a 10 cubic yard Karrier vehicle. A bonus scheme has been put into operation during the year in an endeavour to improve refuse collections. The team of collectors are paid a bonus of 3d for each bin collected in excess of an agreed target per week, and the resulting improvement to date has justified the additional cost involved. A complete collection is made once per week except in abnormal weather or seasonal conditions. Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping. A new tipping area has been acquired during the year, which will provide space for a minimum of ten years.

Waste paper is not collected, but the salvage of scrap metal and rags etc. has been continued and is undertaken during the course of normal refuse collection. A bonus scheme is in operation for this work and a proportion of the income from the sale of salvage is paid to the collectors. The collections during the year were as follows :-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Qrs</u>
Scrap Iron.	4	16	2
Mixed Aluminium.	-	7	-
Brass & Copper.	-	3	-
Rags.	1	11	-
Bottles.		71 Dozen.	

Sewerage.:

137 lin. yards of 9", 27 lin.yards of 6" and 34 lin.yards of 4" soil sewers, and 126 lin.yards of 12" surface water sewers were laid to serve the Council's Housing Site at Elm Road and Mead End. In addition eight new connections were made to existing sewers.

Water Supply :

Lengths of 227 lin.yards of 4" and 108 lin.yards of 3" cast iron water main were laid to serve the Council's Housing Site at Elm Road. Seventeen new connections were made to the Council's existing mains.

The total consumption of water for the year inclusive of trade supplies was 113,576,000 gallons. This shows a decrease of approximately 3,000,000 gallons on the figures for the previous year. The overall daily average consumption of water was approximately 40 gallons per head of the population.

736 inspections for water wastages were made. 11 Notices were served requiring repairs to prevent waste and 721 taps were rewashed free of charge.

Housing :

Eighteen houses, completing a scheme for 43 houses at the Mead End Site, have been constructed during the year. A further scheme for the construction of 28 houses was commenced in August, and substantial progress made. Two Old People's Bungalows have also been constructed.

Four pairs of Duplex Flats were converted to provide single houses, and a scheme for the conversion of Siesta Stoves to open fires was completed in 56 prefabricated bungalows.

T. WILSON, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Stratton House,
The Baulk,
Biggleswade.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I.

1. Inspections :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	1	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	3	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	53	4	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conv.					
a. Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII.

Outwork.

Nature of Work.	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (making).	1	-	-	-	-	-

